

Utah has established 0.08 percent as the presumptive level. Many of the states have implied consent laws whereby the driver who refuses to submit to chemical tests in circumstances where the test is authorized may have his license to drive suspended or revoked.

While many drivers involved in driving accidents have high blood alcohol levels, young, inexperienced drivers may have accidents with low blood levels. It is estimated that one-third of United States adults will drink and drive at some time during the year. The average person attending a cocktail party rarely has a blood alcohol level over 0.05 percent. However, two or more drinks taken in less than an hour may elevate the blood alcohol to the level of legal intoxication. The over-eager host pushing drinks on his guests may grossly impair their driving skill and inadvertently lead to arrest for drunken driving.

This small book contains a wealth of information for a very nominal sum. It includes chapters on Alcohol and Traffic Safety, Acute Alcoholic Intoxication, Pharmacology and Toxicology of Alcohol, Effect of Alcohol on the Nervous System, Effect of Alcohol on Driving Ability, Chemical Tests, Measures for Control of Drinking Drivers, Medical-legal Aspects, Constitutional Aspects of Chemical-test Evidence, Medical-legal Aspects of Chemical Tests and an appendix of court decisions and scientific references.

As a reference book on drinking and driving it is clearly the best available. For any physician who wishes factual material on this subject it is highly recommended.

ALFRED AUERBACK, M.D.

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REVIEW OF MEDICAL PHARMACOLOGY—Frederick H. Meyers, M.D., Professor of Pharmacology, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco; Ernest Jawetz, Ph.D., M.D., Professor of Microbiology, Chairman, Department of Microbiology, Professor of Medicine, Lecturer in Pediatrics, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco; and Alan Goldfien, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco. Lange Medical Publications, Drawer L, Los Altos, Ca. (94022), 1968. 692 pages, \$8.00.

There is something very special and satisfying about a book produced by Lange Medical Publications. The characteristic double-columns of print of the larger volumes are pleasing to the eye, and the concise detailed information that packs the pages provides an extraordinary amount of detail. Useful and original compilations of data ensure the value of these books as reference works, and the usually flowing style of writing allows easy reading.

This review of pharmacology provides full measure of these excellent qualities, and the multiple authorship has been welded into a homogeneous continuum. The prevailing attitude of scepticism directed at manufacturer's claims is a welcome approach that the authors have adopted to provide guidance in drug selection from the cornucopia of pharmacological products.

The coverage of topics is adequate and contains valuable features such as the excellent section on drug abuse and habituation, and the appendix tables listing the effects of drugs on common clinical laboratory procedures, and the drugs hazardous for use during pregnancy. An unevenness creeps into the policy regarding the completeness of bibliographical references which vary from superabundant (Chapter 60) to miserly (the chapters on antibiotics). Occasional statements are unnecessarily provocative and pass undocumented, such as "the claim that diphenylhydantoin causes pulmonary fibrosis has not been confirmed" (page 316).

The authors frequently indulge their interests in a personal way, as in the section on alcoholism, and fall repeatedly into the trap of straying from pharmacology into

technical therapeutics as in the over-detailed description of precautions to take during lumbar puncture (page 228). A contrasting, and more serious, fault is found in many sections where there is insufficient practical information to help the reader select a particular drug formulation: thus in the discussion on antacids, it would have been valuable to have contrasted the electrolyte contents of the alternatives listed, and in the discussion on digitalis more specific guidance should have been included on the advantages of different digitalizing and maintenance regimens. This book has to compete with the Lange text on Diagnosis and Treatment, and a contrasting approach to therapy should have been accorded to emphasize the pharmacological basis of drug selection: too often this text on Medical Pharmacology resembles its well-established competitor. Numerous examples of the inadequacies of this review could be cited: thus intravenous colchicine is not mentioned, the various available preparations of PAS are not detailed, and so on.

Some of the best chapters are those on drugs acting on the central nervous system; some of the poorer discussions are those where physiological principles should have been invoked as a basis for the pharmacological approach, as in the sections on shock and fluid balance which are both inferior. The most disappointing chapters are those on antibiotics, where descriptions of drugs are often inadequate (e.g., cephaloridine, gentamicin). Specific faults in these chapters could be mentioned, e.g., the advised dose of colistin (page 513) is inadequate; the chapter on penicillins fails to detail the precise advantages of the different preparations, and does not discuss the use of penicillinase; the dosage of intramuscular tetracyclines is not clearly stated. The chapter on Chemoprophylaxis is interesting, but it is surely misplaced in a text on pharmacology. The last two chapters in the section on chemotherapeutic agents are contributions on antiprotozoal and anthelmintic drugs, and are excellent.

Many other individual faults in this text could be cited in detail, but few are serious. Definite errors are not readily found, and the printing mistakes detected were limited to the mis-spelling of Sharpey-Schafer's name (page 231), the failure to include footnote 5 following Table 46-1, and the omission of the Chapter reference to RTF (page 505). A more serious fault is the tendency to include large diagrams which contribute nothing but length to the book, e.g., Figs. 6-1, 9-1, 37-1, 37-2.

The ultimate questions concerning this book are whether it was necessary, and who should buy it? Undoubtedly, it provides a very good guide to therapeutics, but it falls short of being an adequate reference book, which is a major requirement for any physician faced with the daily problems of practical drug dosage, indications, contraindications and side-effects. For the student or practitioner who already possesses the Lange series of texts on medicine and therapeutics, this new publication would be somewhat superfluous, since there are so many areas of overlap with the former books. However, if one finds Goodman and Gilman too indigestible, and Current Diagnosis and Treatment is not in one's library, then the \$8.00 that this review costs will be well-spent not only by medical students, but also by qualified practitioners who wish to own an excellent, readable and reliable guide to the application of pharmacology to clinical medicine. If the next edition contains more detailed, critical guidance to drug selection and more emphasis on the problems of contraindications and side-effects (preferably in tabular form), then it will surely come to meet as wide an ownership in personal libraries as any other text of practical pharmacology.

IRWIN ZIMENT, M.B., M.R.C.P.